



Date: December 31, 2015

Memo To: Town of Bluffton Town Council; Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors; Marc Orlando, Town Manager

From: David Nelems, Don Ryan Center for Innovation Executive Director

RE: DECEMBER 2015 DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION REPORT

CENTER OPERATIONS

- Approved several new submissions to **LowcountryWORKS.com**.
- **Launched a new DRCI website.**
- Committee meeting regarding potential **DRCI/HHIEDC partnership**.
- Hosted annual **DRCI Holiday Networking party**. Roughly 45 people attended. Also collected toys for the Christmas drive.
- Mid-year meeting with **Trisha Greathouse regarding DRCI budget, expenses.**

INNOVATORS

- Currently there are **8 innovators** in the Center.
- Met with **three potential innovators.**
- Met with **Patient Access Director at Coastal Carolina Hospital** regarding a forthcoming product from our SCAD based innovator **Hales Medical**. This is part of an ongoing market study as the innovators are interviewing potential customers.
- Met with **every innovator at least once** (some multiple times) during the month. A lot of progress with each company.
- Coordinating prototype development for **Elongator**. Videoconference and in person design meetings with the **Southeastern Institute for Manufacturing Technology in Florence, SC.**
- Met with **three potential innovators.**
- Coordinating meetings and phone calls with representatives from **Coastal Carolina and Hilton Head Hospital** regarding advice and possible pilot testing on the Hales Medical app being developed by the SCAD group that is working out of the DRCI.
- Multiple **calls and video conferences with Clemson.**
- Helped DRCI graduate **Greenbug All Natural** with new website design.

OUTREACH, STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

- Strategy meeting with **Al Stokes, Wadell Mariculture Center** Director, Shawn Leininger BPDC, DRCI Board member Michael Mathews and Jay Martinez about possible **Mariculture - Economic Development opportunities**.
- Lunch meeting with **J. Michael Bonnette, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Development** and **Brian Canada, Professor of Computer Science** about a more formal partnership between **USCB and DRCI**.
- Meeting with **Todd Bornscheuer**. Principal of new **May River High School** about innovation and a **role with the DRCI** in 2016.
- Attended a day long event with other **SC Innovation grant winners in Florence, SC**.
- Discussing an idea of an **entrepreneurship TV show that would be broadcast on WHHI**.
- Monthly call with all **Clemson Technology Village Directors**.
- Continuing year two of partnership with **SCAD** for entrepreneurship sessions.
- **Received a sponsorship from AT&T**. This was a small sponsorship in the form of computer hardware. In 2016 we look for the sponsorship to grow in size.

MEDIA

- **WJCL Interview** regarding **DRCI and Taylor Offshore**.
- **Savannah Business News** article on **LeDome Champagne Truffles**.

TOWN OF BLUFFTON OPERATIONS

- Senior Staff **welcome meeting for Scott Marshall**.
- Troubleshooting and addressed **audio issues at the Rotary Center**.
- Attended **Senior Staff** meetings.
- Attended **Annual Christmas** dinner.
- Various meetings with **Town Manager**.